

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 12-14, and 16-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 6, and 12-14 are amended; claims 3, 5, and 8-11 are canceled; and claims 16-20 are added. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in Table 1 of the specification and in the specification at paragraphs [0072] - [0075], [0080], and [0083]. Support for the amendment to the specification may be found, for example, in the specification at paragraph [0083], lines 9-13 (Table 1 is amended to correct a typographical error by replacing "6.75" with "6.8" in row, "Difference of Inorganic Colorant Ratio (Blank)-(Sheet)," column, "Ex. 2 (Blank 2): wt%."). No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 12-15 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. By this Amendment, claim 15 is canceled, rendering its rejection moot. Claims 12-14 are amended in light of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections**A. Miyazaki**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0006451 to Miyazaki et al. (Miyazaki). By this Amendment, claims 3, 5, and 8-11 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse their rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, independent claim 1 is amended to recite the following additional features:

a value (B-A) obtained by subtracting the first weight ratio (A) from the second weight ratio (B) is 6.8,
said second organic binder component includes ethyl cellulose and benzylbutyl phthalate,
a weight ratio of said benzylbutyl phthalate is larger than the same of said ethyl cellulose with respect to said second inorganic dielectric colorant powder,
the weight ratio of said benzylbutyl phthalate with respect to said second inorganic dielectric colorant powder is 6.3% or more and 11.3% or less, and
a weight ratio of said first organic binder component with respect to said first inorganic dielectric colorant powder is less than 10wt%.

Miyazaki fails to teach at least the above-recited features.

The Office Action asserts that Miyazaki teaches that the green sheet slurry is comprised of 3 parts by weight of plasticizer to 100 parts by weight dielectric powder (weight ratio (A) of 3%); that the dielectric paste is comprised of 10 parts by weight organic binder to 100 parts by weight dielectric powder (weight ratio (B) of 10%); and that therefore, the second weight ratio (B) is larger than the first weight ratio (A). Applicants respectfully disagree for at least the following reasons.

Miyazaki actually teaches that the second weight ratio (B) is equal to the first weight ratio (A). Specifically, Miyazaki teaches that the ceramic powder (100 parts by weight), polyvinyl butyral (7 parts by weight), and DOP serving as a plasticizer (3 parts by weight) were prepared to make a ceramic slurry (A) with a weight ratio of 10%. See Miyazaki [0135]. Miyazaki also teaches that the ceramic paste (B) for forming a ceramic green layer which compensates for spacers was made by preparing dielectric powder (100 parts by weight) and an organic binder (10 parts by weight) to have a weight ratio of 10%. See Miyazaki [0141]. Considering the above, the second weight ratio (B) is equal to the first weight ratio (A) in Miyazaki. Therefore, Miyazaki fails to teach each and every element of claim 1.

Miyazaki does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, and 12-14 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Miyazaki. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

B. Iwase

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 5, 6, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,805,763 to Iwase et al. ("Iwase"). By this Amendment, claims 5 and 15 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As explained above, claim 1 is amended. Iwase fails to teach each and every element of amended claim 1 for at least the following reasons. First, Fig. 1 of Iwase shows a stacked ceramic body 1 including ceramic layers 111, 112, an internal electrode layer 121, 122 stacked on at least a part of a surface of the ceramic layer 111, 112, a spacer 131, 132 stacked on the surface of the ceramic layer at which the internal electrode layer 121, 122 is not formed and having substantially the same thickness as that of the internal electrode layers 121, 122, and adhesive layers 14 stacked on the surface of the internal electrode layer 121, 122 and on the surface of the spacer 131, 132. In contrast to the teachings of Iwase, Fig. 3 of the present application shows a multilayer body wherein the electrode pattern layer 12a and dielectric blink pattern layer 24 are formed on green sheet 10a.

The Office Action asserts that the spacer 131, 132 of Iwase corresponds to the dielectric blink pattern layer 24 of the present application; however, they differ in at least the following points. (1) The binder of the Iwase spacer is PVB. In contrast, the binder of the dielectric blink pattern layer of the application is ethyl cellulose. (2) The spacer of Iwase does not include plasticizer. In contrast, the dielectric blink pattern layer of the present application includes a specific kind and predetermined amount of plasticizer. (3) The second weight ratio described in Iwase, specifically the weight ratio (B) is smaller than the first

weight ratio (A) in all the examples described in Iwase. *See* Iwase, col. 9, lines 3-24 ("100 g of a ceramic material consisting of PZT and amine particle diameter of 0.5 μ m is prepared. Next, 40 g of a binder formed of PVB is added to obtain slurry for the ceramic layer." "100 g of a spacer material consisting of PZT. To this spacer material is added 8 g of a binder consisting of PVB to obtain slurry for the spacer."). Therefore, the second weight ratio (B) is less at 8% than the first weight ratio (A) of 40%.

In addition, the adhesive layers of Iwase and the dielectric blink pattern layer of the present application also differ in the above three points. The present application determines the components and their weight ratio of both green sheet slurry and electrode level difference absorbing dielectric paste, to exhibit the effects as shown in Table 1 of the invention. These characteristics and the effects of the same are not found in Iwase.

Iwase does not anticipate claim 1. Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and, thus, also is not anticipated by Iwase. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Iwase in view of P 2001-261448 to Hirose ("Hirose"). By this Amendment, claims 3, 10, and 11 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The deficiencies of Iwase with respect to claim 1 are discussed above. Hirose, which is only relied upon by the Office Action for its alleged disclosure of the additional limitations recited in claims 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, and 14, at least fails to cure the deficiencies of Iwase with respect to claim 1. As such, the combination of Iwase and Hirose fails to teach or suggest each and every limitation of claim 1. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 1 cannot be fairly considered to have been rendered obvious by the combination of Iwase and Hirose.

Claims 4, 13, and 14 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, require all the limitations of claim 1. Thus, for at least the reasons discussed above, these claims would not have been rendered obvious by the combination of Iwase and Hirose. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. 35 U.S.C. §§102/103 Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0016484 to Iwaida et al. ("Iwaida"). By this Amendment, claims 3, 5, and 8-11 are canceled, rendering their rejection moot. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Despite its asserted disclosures, Iwaida fails to teach or suggest the method of claim 1, where "said second weight ratio (B) is larger than said first weight ration (A)." Instead, Iwaida discloses the following: to 100 parts by weight of this ceramic component was added 55 parts by weight of a vehicle comprising 5.5% by weight of a polyvinyl butyral, 1.7% by weight of a plasticizer. Iwaida also discloses the following: to 100 parts by weight of this ceramic powder, there was added 55 parts by weight of a vehicle comprising 5.5% by weight of an ethyl cellulose. *See* Iwaida paragraph [0268].

The ratio of organic binder component (polyvinyl butyral plus plasticizer) included in the ceramic slurry in Iwaida is larger than the same of organic binder component (ethyl cellulose) included in a ceramic paste for forming ceramic patterns. Considering this, the second weight ratio (B) is smaller than the first weight ratio (A) in Iwaida.

For at least this reason, Iwaida does not anticipate, and would not have rendered obvious claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 6, 7 and 12-14 variously depend from claim 1 and, thus, also are not anticipated by and would not have been rendered obvious by Iwaida. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. New Claims

By this Amendment, new claims 16-20 are presented. New claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 1 and, thus, distinguish over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1.

New claim 18 is directed to a production method of a multilayer ceramic device having features similar to the features recited in claim 1. Claims 1 and 18 differ in the following points. Claim 1 describes "the weight ratio of said benzylbutyl phthalate with respect to said second inorganic dielectric colorant powder is 6.3% or more and 11.3% or less." Claim 18 describes, "the weight ratio of said benzylbutyl phthalate with respect to said ethyl cellulose in second organic binder component is 140wt% to 250wt%." New claim 18 is believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons described above.

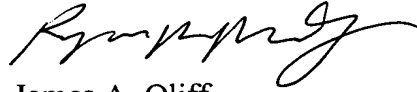
New claims 19 and 20 depend from claim 18 and, thus, are also believed to be patentable over the applied references. Prompt examination and allowance of new claims 16-20 are respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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